



CHEAP STREET CHURCH

To know the love of God through the power of the Holy Spirit and with Jesus as our teacher to show and share our faith

Minister

The Revd Duncan Goldie
01935 812916

The Prayer Ring

is available for an urgent need or situation. Call any of these numbers and the circle of prayer will begin
Eirwen Cox 01935 815960
Penny Gardner 01935 389153
Janet Le Moignan 01935 389662

Acting Church Secretary

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NEWSLETTER

22nd October 2020

It is rather wet outside as I try to put together this edition of the newsletter. Though I am feeling a bit soggy I think the contributions this week are not. They are bright, crisp and full of hopeful ideas and lots of energy. Geoff kick started a discussion last week and several replies are printed here. Any other thoughts are very welcome. At the end of this newsletter you will find photos of Traidcraft Cards that Jan Wallace has organized for us to order. Yes. Christmas is fast approaching. I hope this finds you warm and dry and with a song in your hearts.
With love, Penny

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

By Jackie Bullen – Encouragement

1Thesalonians 5:14-18 (NIV) “We are also asking you to encourage those who have lost hope. Help those who are weak. Be patient with everyone. Make sure that no one pays back one wrong act with another. Instead, always try to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Give thanks no matter what happens. Don’t try to stop what the Holy Spirit is doing.”

To be able to encourage anyone I guess it’s helpful if we’re feeling up-beat ourselves, as I think we normally pick up the vibes as to how the person we’re talking to is feeling. So if we’re feeling depressed ourselves we’re not likely to be much of an encouragement to someone else.

With that in mind, I’d like to share with you my daughter’s latest poem entitled “On Reflection” which she wrote for Mental Health Week.

This one’s for men and women, and boys and girls as well.

It’s something that I heard about and feel that I must tell.

For every single morning, of this there is no doubt,

We all look in the mirror before we venture out.

What is it that we look for, what is it that we see?

A pimple or a freckle, or facial hair may be.

But stop and take a moment and look deep in your eyes,

Then muster up a smile - you’ll get a sweet surprise.

For then, all of a sudden, you’ll notice things have changed.

Now everything looks different, your face has re-arranged.

Don’t rush to look away yet, just stay there for a while.

Get used to looking at yourself and see your lovely smile.

From personal experience no longer do I find

The pimple or the freckle, I’ve left them both behind.

Instead I see a person whose eyes are shining bright,

Whose smile is reassuring me that everything’s alright.

I see someone who’s happy, who’s hopeful for the day.

I see someone who’ll make the most of things that come their way.

By Sue Bradshaw

I am so grateful for the numerous people who, over the years, have given me encouragement, including many of you here at Cheap Street who are probably blissfully unaware that you've done so. Little do we know what effect an act of kindness, a visit, a kind word, a phone call or a smile can have on those we meet, but I can tell of someone's thoughtfulness recently that gave me great joy. A few weeks ago I unknowingly lost a hearing-aid on Sherborne station platform whilst putting on my mask before travelling to Exeter. I worked it out that that was the most likely place to have dropped it, so on my return 6 hours later I rushed across the bridge to the seat where I'd been sitting that morning. After looking around on the ground as well as on the seat there was no sign of it, but then I spotted it safely lodged on a wooden slat on the back-rest, in front of an upright, so that it wouldn't fall off. I tell you, I practically danced home rejoicing, thanks to that person's kindness. These are exciting times, when the church has opportunities to reach out into the community in a number of new ways, and within the Community & Wider World team we're continuing to explore new possibilities which we look forward to sharing with you. If, as we hope, any of these ideas come to fruition we will be seeking your encouragement as we face new challenges.

2 verses from Hymn no. 619, Singing the Faith

Thanks for friends who keep on loving,
Finding ways to help us grow,
Celebrating our achievements,
Sharing in our pain and woe.
God is glimpsed where love is faithful:
Mirrored here in time and space.
Thanks to God for friends who love us:
Christ revealed in every face.

Other people help to shape us
when they take the time to share
words of wisdom, honest actions
through our journey in God's care.
In our faithful, honest learning
we discover things unknown.
Thanks to God for friends who teach us:
Seeking talent yet unknown.
(Gary Hopkins (b. 1984)

Finally, a quote from Isaiah 40:31 –
“Those who hope in the Lord will renew
their strength, they will soar on wings
like eagles; they will run and not grow
weary, they will walk and not be faint.”
Let us pray that we will continue to put
our trust in the Lord, and walk in the
path he has set before each one of us.
Amen.

Pastoral

Dear Friends,

I am so happy that we have been able to resume our Sunday worship. Yes, there are many restrictions, but we still have much to be thankful for. For the past few weeks our lovely church has been open to our church family, and to members of the community wishing to visit. Despite our masks, sanitisers and social distancing, it is wonderful to be worshipping together. Yes, of course we would love to sing, but we will have to wait a while longer for that.

Our thanks must go to Duncan, our Councillors, and Pete Ghent (our church cleaner) who have studied the complex guidelines and implemented the necessary procedures to keep us all safe. I have looked at the government guidelines and found them to be overwhelming. I think they have done an amazing job.

The Pastoral Visitors Team have also been working hard in a different way. Telephone calls have replaced face to face meetings, and there has been a considerable amount of chatting taking place. As a pastoral team we will continue with this, and perhaps other church members may wish to join in by making the occasional phone call to keep in touch.

Let's all carry on supporting one another as best we can, and we will get through it all.

The day will come when we shall:

“Shout for joy to the
Lord all the earth!” (Psalm 100)
The dancing? I think I'll leave that to the youngsters!

Congratulations to Dennis and Barbara Porter who had a great granddaughter, Josephine Jane, born on the 6th of October. Love and Best Wishes to all of you from the Church Family.

We would also like to wish Kate Fisher a Happy Birthday on the 26th of October. She will be celebrating her 70th Birthday. (quietly!) We send you love and Best Wishes.

God is with us all wherever we go and whatever we do, love and prayers to everyone.
Eirwen.

FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER

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Whenever and wherever we pray in the silence of our hearts, we are part of a rich and powerful fellowship, which serves to sustain everyone in our Church Family. Anyone can join the prayer group by just praying.

We pray particularly for Sheila Green and her family. We continue to pray for John Hunt and his family; Carol Hooper and her family; Janet Baker; Martin Heal; Phyllis Batchelor; Duncan's mother; Kathy Crew; Clive and Jill Turner, Ellie and Sophie; Janet Dolling and her family; Judith Hayward and her family; Eileen Higgins; Alex Palmer; Peter and Marjorie Kett; Christina Le Moignan. (continuing eye problems).

In this strange time, when lots of time is being spent considering important decisions for all of us at Cheap Street Church,

please pray for

all on our Church Council at the moment,

Janet Le Moignan
Jan Wallace
Rob Hooper
George Faris
Martin Heal
Christine Rogers

Norma Hamill

Peter Kett

Also those helping with Property matters related to Covid 19 secure areas,

Geoff Gardner

John Stinchcombe

And of course our minister Duncan.

We also have a new Safeguarding Officer, George Faris. Please pray for George and bless his work in our Church. Thank you.

LETTERS

Reply to Geoff's Letter

I write in response to Geoff's letter in last week's Newsletter.

Although the sterling work done by Eirwen and the Pastoral team has been a comfort, many of our church family have felt lonely, isolated. Looking back at the last months there were things we could have done. Many of us were frightened for ourselves and our families. We hunkered down because, we thought, it would all be over by July. We missed the opportunities presented by a wonderful summer. We could have met in small groups in Pageant Gardens to picnic and meet our friends. Far too cold now. Hindsight, as they say is a wonderful thing!

The church was opened for Sunday services but it opened, as Geoff said in his letter, not with a bang but with a whimper. Possibly we could not have managed the sort of celebration Geoff wrote about - (I could not dance in the aisles!) but we could have done something. Perhaps put up banners announcing the re-opening of the church for worship, involved the press to tell the town - Cheap Street Church is now open!

Not able to see friends and family in other parts of the country, no chance of seeing near ones living abroad, none of us dreamt that at the beginning of November we would still be in the midst of a pandemic, battered by regulations.

Many of us have lost heart.

We need to think about our future as a Church? We need to talk about it, bounce ideas off each other, pray for guidance. How many sleeps until Christmas, George? Christmas will be different this year but let's make it special, one to remember. Our thinking needs to be positive, proactive, imaginative and prepared to be innovative.

Friends, get thinking! ONWARD
FORWARD UPWARD

Barbara Porter

From another
". . . I am trying to pray hard at the moment (at which I am not good), because the one thing I am sure of is that we all need help!"

From Martin Heal -
Geoff Gardner should not apologise for expressing an opinion about our Church. His voice is as important as any and should be considered in love as I am sure it was offered in love.

I am certain his obvious frustrations are shared by all of us in these unprecedented times and I repeat my plea that more members of our congregation should share their visions for Cheap Street.

Yes we do have a gospel to proclaim but because we have a mighty God we will never be left rudderless or without a sail. God's hand will be on the tiller and the Holy Spirit will fill the sails if we seek His will.

It would be lovely if more people in the community used our premises and it would be wonderful if we could fulfil the vision of witness, work and worship being dreamed of by Geoff and others of us.

My view is that we should be preparing ourselves for a big new start when the Covid restrictions have been lifted perhaps heralded by an extra special event to let Sherborne know we are back in business as a congregation. I rejoined the Church Council only a few months ago and I am longing to be free

from the Covid regulations to discuss our outreach and worship away from the screen. As Dickens wrote "the law is an ass" but we are bound by it.

In the meantime let us "reason together" as the Bible says and be open with each other. Let us proclaim the gospel of love and reconciliation in the way we live and conduct ourselves. Above all let us pray . . . and wait upon the Lord.
Martin

From Margaret Field -

Re your Thought with cymbals etc. On Sunday we had a pianist for the first time and this helped with humming. So we are doing I think quite well within the bounds of keeping the distance from each other. You should come and see one Sunday and then you would be in a better position to take stock of our church family - keeping your distance from us and not knowing the facts, does not prove anything.
Love
Margaret x

PS - It is not a telling off, my dear Geoff, it is just my view of how we need to cope with what we can do and do it with love for each other. And acceptance and support for Duncan.

PRAYERS FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Nepal - Hindu nationalist groups aim to turn Nepal into a Hindu state. Treacherous roads, long-distance travel, rainfall, intense heat from the sun, fear of catching Covid-19, suspicious eyes - these are the challenges Open Doors partners faced delivering aid to over 1,300 Christian families across Nepal suffering due to the pandemic. But what kept them going was the joy of serving their brothers and sisters. Many believers have lost jobs and do not own land for farming, and being a Christian often means being deliberately overlooked in the distribution of government aid. Let us give thanks for the courage and selflessness of Open Doors partners in Nepal, and pray for their continued strength and protection. We pray that where people see Christians receiving this help, they'd see love in action and

want to know more, also that every physical, emotional and spiritual need of Christians in Nepal will be met. Amen.

BLYTHSWOOD

Sunday 1st November is All Saints' Day and it is the time when we normally hold a service for people to remember those they have loved who have died. This year, due to Covid restrictions, we are only able to open the church for one service, so we will be combining this special remembrance with our morning service at 10.30am.

In the same service we shall also be dedicating the Christmas shoeboxes that we are sending to Romania through Blythswood Care. We shall have just one box to represent them all, together with a label giving the total number provided. If you have a box, please hold on to it for the moment and in the next newsletter I will give details of when this can be delivered to our house on 30th & 31st October. Alternatively I am happy to collect boxes by mutual arrangement, but preferably not before 28th October, unless you are going away by then. My phone number is 01935 389662. Thank you for bringing some Christmas joy to people who are struggling to survive, and sharing God's love with them.
Janet Le Moignan

The Minister's Thoughts for this Coming Week

Lectionary Readings for week beginning 25th October 2020.

Psalms 90:1-6, 13-17, Deuteronomy 34:1-12, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8, Matthew 22:34-46.

In the past week we have had clashes between our national leaders and regional leaders over the level of classification for various regions of the country and the level of financial support provided for those adversely affected by increased restrictions. It is a challenging time for our leaders as the Covid 19 virus infections rise and as people find it harder to cope with both the financial impact and personal/social

wellbeing cost caused by the restrictions.

As the leader of the people of Israel, Moses often had a difficult and challenging time as he led the people towards the land that God had promised to them and their ancestors. Moses gets to see the land but not to enter it. It will be Joshua that will lead them on and into the promised land. There will be no pilgrimages back to where Moses is buried as his grave is left unmarked; the people are to journey without Moses but still with God.

The Church that Paul helped to found in Thessalonica is having to go forward without the leadership that Paul had given when he worked to found it. Paul's leadership is a model for current and future leaders to follow, as they go forward placing their faith in Jesus Christ.

As we go forward, we all have glimpses and hopes of what life will be like but as we go forward with our current leaders we need to do so seeking to fulfil the words of Jesus, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' and to 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

Hymn Singing The Faith 520. Give to me, Lord a thankful heart

Duncan

ALTERNATIVE SUNDAY WORSHIP

SHERBORNE ABBEY

The Abbey has parish worship at 9.30 am on Sunday and is open for private prayer on Thursday between 11 am and 1 pm.

Radio 4: 8.10 am – [BBC Radio 4](#) Revd Dr Sam Wells explores the difference between reading the Bible and letting the Bible read us, allowing our idea of ourselves and the world to be turned upside-down.

Methodist resources: [click here](#).

URC resources: [click here](#). The digital edition of the URC monthly magazine Reform is on free access during the lockdown: [click here](#).

URC: [daily devotions and a Sunday service](#) ([click here to subscribe](#)).

CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

The newsletter is compiled by Penny Gardner or George Faris so please send contributions by midday Wednesday to:

Penny Gardner
pennygardner@gmail.com 01935
389153 and to
George Faris gfaris48@gmail.com
01935 420258

FAIRTRADE CHRISTMAS CARDS

The cards will be on display in the welcome area during Sunday Services and can be ordered or, if preferred, can be ordered directly from Jan Wallace on 01935 389774, email: jandixonwallace@gmail.com Just to add that cards ordered directly from me can be personally delivered to people who are shielding.



1/ Dove of Peace - 10 cards for £3.75p. Inside: "Wishing you a Peaceful Christmas and New Year".



2/ African Nativity - 20 cards for £4.95p. Inside: "Christmas Blessings". This is an assorted pack of the four images shown.



3/ Festive Robin - 10 cards for £3.75p. Inside: "Happy Christmas"



4/ O Holy Night - 10 cards for £3.95p. Inside: "Wishing you Peace and Joy at Christmas".



5/ Away in a Manger - 10 cards for £3.95p. Inside: "With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year".



£3.00. Inside blank

6/ Thinking of you at Christmas - 6 cards for